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3 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : OXCART Flight Test Status - 2 April 1963

1. Aircraft #123 (J-75 engines) made flight #59 on 2 April for a duration of one hour and thirty-five minutes. Purpose of the flight was to test the inertial navigation system (INS) and the automatic direction finder (ADF). INS operation for the flight was normal; ADF operation was very good. The large flush antenna recently installed homed in on San Francisco 400 miles away with the signal "loud and clear." Landing was routine with normal operation of the drag chute.

2. Aircraft #124 (trainer) made three flights on 2 April. Flight #50 was a one hour training mission for two Agency pilots; all systems operated normally and the landing was routine. The Director witnessed the launch of this flight. Flight #51 was an air refueling training mission for one of the Agency pilots. Landing was normal with a faster than usual drag chute deployment. Duration of flight #51 was one hour and forty-nine minutes. The last flight, #52, was a night air refueling training mission for Agency pilots. Flying time was one hour and fifty minutes. Pilots commented that the aircraft landing light appeared satisfactory for landing and taxiing and also that cockpit lighting in both cockpits was very good.

3. There was no change in the status of the other A-12 aircraft; #121 and #122 remained grounded for incorporation of changes in the installed J-58 engines. A pressurized nose to accommodate the ARC-50 is being installed in aircraft #125, and aircraft #126 is in a reassembly process at

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NRO review(s) completed.

SIGNED
JOHN PARANGOSKY
Chief, Development Division
(Special Activities)

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